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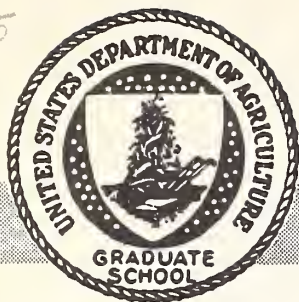
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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

Washington, D. C.

July 20, 1950

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

Our latest venture

into the publishing business has produced a timely book. WHAT WE LEARNED IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DURING THE WAR, is the title of the 131-page, paper-bound, multilithed volume on sale at the GS bookstore for \$1 a copy.

The subject matter comes from the GS lecture series given under the chairmanship of John H. Thurston (Secretary's Office) in the fall of 1946.

Among topics covered are: "Top level coordination of wartime programs," by Donald Kingsley, who was department director of OWMR; "Relations between Congress and the Executive Branch," by Estes Kefauver, then Congressman now U. S. Senator from Tennessee; "Informing the people," by Neil Dalton, former director of domestic operations, OWI; and "Lessons of the war," a summary by Herbert Emmerich, Director of the Public Administration Clearing House.

Secretary Brannan

gave GS credit for much of the training on which solid accomplishments in management (in USDA) are based.

In his talk to the President's advisory council on management improvement, June 30, he said, "The fact that directors of staff offices, assistant directors, and division and section chiefs have over the years been willing to serve as discussion leaders after hours bears witness to strong interest in management improvement. Officials and teachers, employees and pupils not only welcome but search out and invent improved methods for doing their work."

He went on to say that GS serves the entire Government community by attracting and training students employed in all agencies and that it has particularly facilitated the recruitment of able personnel for USDA.

A keen analysis

of management improvement is given in the GS booklet, "Washington-Field Relationships in the Federal Service" (1942) by Earl W. Loveridge and Peter Keplinger of Forest Service. When I commented sometime ago about the continued interest in this booklet, (GS bookstore, 35¢), Mr. Loveridge (chairman of the GS Department of Public Administration) informed me that the material is also available in two other papers. He revised and expanded it for an article in the 1949 USDA Yearbook and he also used it as the basis for a statement, "Administration of Forests: Organization of Forest Service," which he gave before the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources, at Lake Success in September 1949. Copies of both of these papers may be obtained from FS publications office.

An ideal pattern

for retirement has been set by W. F. Callander, former GS advisor and student, who left his post as chairman of the crop reporting board and assistant chief of BAE, last December, after 45 years of service.

In a recent visit he told me that he is now at work on plans for:

(1) The establishment of a statistical laboratory, which he will direct at the University of Florida;

(2) The reorganization of the University's work in statistics;

(3) A statistical study for the Florida Chamber of Commerce that will provide a master sample to show how many people visit the State each year and how much they spend;

(4) An FAO mission, which he will head, to Costa Rica this fall to present a 6-weeks course in the organization of statistical work for interested Latin Americans.

This past spring Mr. Callander conducted a seminar in applied statistics for 18 graduate students at the University of Florida. He says it was a wonderfully stimulating and rewarding experience. Retirement has given him an opportunity to take on new assignments in pleasant surroundings where the weather is fine, the fishing is excellent...if he can find time to fish.

About 40 percent

of the new 16, 17, 18 grades are filled by persons who entered Federal service through grades corresponding to GS 5 through 9, reports the Civil Service Commission. About half of the new supergraders have worked in only one agency during their Federal career. About 35 percent of the administrators entered Federal employment from private practice or industry, 28 percent left College faculties, 25 percent began careers in Federal civil service, and 12 percent left positions in local or State governments.

Five agencies

were represented by the five GS students who completed requirements for certificates of accomplishment in office techniques at the end of spring semester. The students were Beatrice Garland (State, Charlotte Corbin (Census) Stanley Dickter (Air Force), Olga Kirka (VA), and Richard Lee (Maritime).

14 students from Turkey

are enrolled in GS this summer for courses in physics, principles of meteorology, and calculus. The work is being given at Wilson Teachers College by Ellis Haworth (Wilson) and Clyde M. Huber (Wilson) as a preliminary to study of meteorology at the University of Chicago and on-the-job training at various Weather Bureau installations. The students were brought to this country under an ECA contract with the Weather Bureau.

Here's the latest

on the 8 correspondence courses most needed by USDA workers in the field and not offered by any of the universities cooperating with GS in a recent evaluation of their extension work.

The Solicitor's office opines that correspondence courses designed to improve performance can be developed and given on a non-fee basis on official time by USDA agencies. If the course meets the needs of other agencies, the material might be made available generally in the Department through GS.

To explore possibilities along this line, members of the committee on correspondence study and extension education, whose agencies have the greatest need for the courses in question have been designated to determine whether the agencies can develop them and make them available to all employees.

Mr. Peterson, chairman, will confer with SCS officials on the course in hydraulics. The investigation of setting up the other courses has been assigned to: Daniel Currie (Pers.), supervision and personnel practices and procedures; Richard Hollis (Inf.), informational practices and procedures; William Bing (BAE), statistics; Robert Adcock (PMA), Carroll Cornelius (FHA), C. C. Hearne (Ext.) and Mr. Peterson (SCS), office organization and management.

Mr. Adcock and I are to discuss two of the courses -- budgetary practices and procedures and procurement practices and procedures -- with Ralph W. Roberts (B&F).

An answer to the charge

that the most conspicuous weakness of current graduate programs is failure to provide potential faculty members with the basic skills and art necessary to impart knowledge to others is given by Fernandus Payne, Indiana University, in the June 2, 1950, issue of Science. The charge, as you recall, was made in the report of the President's Commission on Higher Education.

Professor Payne bases his defense on the present Ph. D. program -- as the best way to educate college teachers of science -- on the definition that good teaching is that which stimulates the student to learn as a result of his own efforts. The program, pretty much alike the country over, is built around the needs of the student by a committee working with the student. In most cases it requires:

1. Broader and deeper knowledge of a field of specialization
2. More limited knowledge of fields or a field related to the major field
3. The thesis
4. The final comprehensive examination

If the requirements are enforced with fairness, justice, flexibility, and high scholastic standards, Professor Payne says they will provide the student with the foundation for continued growth so that he can do either teaching or research or both with some degree of efficiency. Do you agree?

Continuous guidance

is given by most departments at Ohio State University to graduate students who plan to teach, according to The Graduate School Record for June 1950. This guidance may take the form of regularly scheduled conferences with senior staff members, organized meetings to discuss teaching methods and philosophies, and agreements between junior and senior staff members on common assignments sheets, uniform examinations, and a uniform basis of grading examinations and reports.

Supervisors in 6 departments visit classes taught by junior staff members to observe the quality of the teaching and also to offer constructive advice and guidance. Three departments, on the other hand, have abandoned or are opposed to class visitation on the grounds that these visits create an artificial work situation and cannot be repeated frequently enough to be of real value.

Problems of the aged

are of particular concern in USDA because a large percentage of the older people in this country live in small towns and rural areas. As the proportion in the population becomes higher-- a strong trend now-- USDA workers will be called on increasingly to help deal with problems of the aged.

To provide a forum for persons concerned with aging, the Federal Security Administration has scheduled a national 3-day conference here in August. One objective of the meeting is to reevaluate the potentialities of older people toward ensuring their useful and satisfying participation in the life of the community. Another is to stimulate the exchange of ideas among persons of varied experience, with a view to solving problems of the aging through voluntary and public organizations in each State, city, and community.

As a member of the secretariat of the section on professional education, I have attended several of the planning sections. USDA is well represented on secretariats of the ten sections that have laid the groundwork for this conference.

Have you seen

the article, "Ready for Retirement?" in the June issue of Extension Service Review? It describes a program now in progress by Alpha chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi at Montana State College to prepare extension workers for retirement.

Sincerely,

Lavin H. Zehabagh

Director

